

AN ATRAUMATIC ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE INTRODUCER AND ATRAUMATIC INTUBATION METHODS

Abstract of the Invention

The present invention is an endotracheal tube introducer (“introducer”) that slides
5 within an endotracheal tube. The introducer has a tubular wall that defines a lumen extending
between a proximal end and a distal end of the introducer. The tubular wall has an outer
diameter that is less than an inner diameter of the endotracheal tube. The tubular wall is
circumscribed by an invertible shroud. The invertible shroud flexes distal-ward (“forward”)
proximal-ward (“rearward”). The proximal end of the introducer is introduced into a distal end of
10 the endotracheal tube and the shroud is manually retroflexed rearward to cover the sharp margins
of the end of the endotracheal tube prior to its insertion into a patient’s airway. After the
endotracheal tube has been properly positioned, the introducer is withdrawn, the motion of its
withdrawal anteflexing the shroud forward for removal through the endotracheal tube.